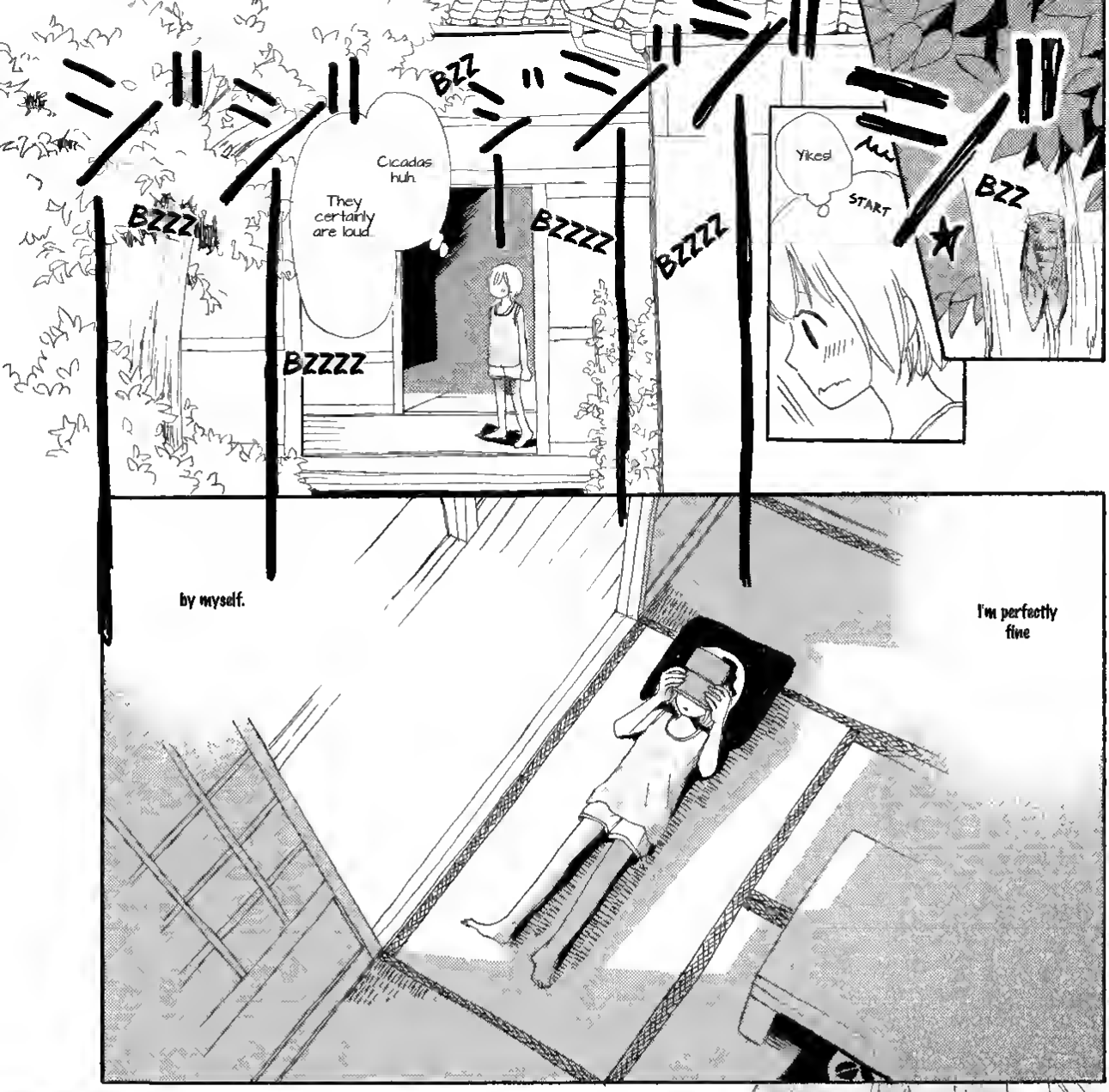
きらきらのなつ

KiRa KiRa no Natsu

ささだあすか

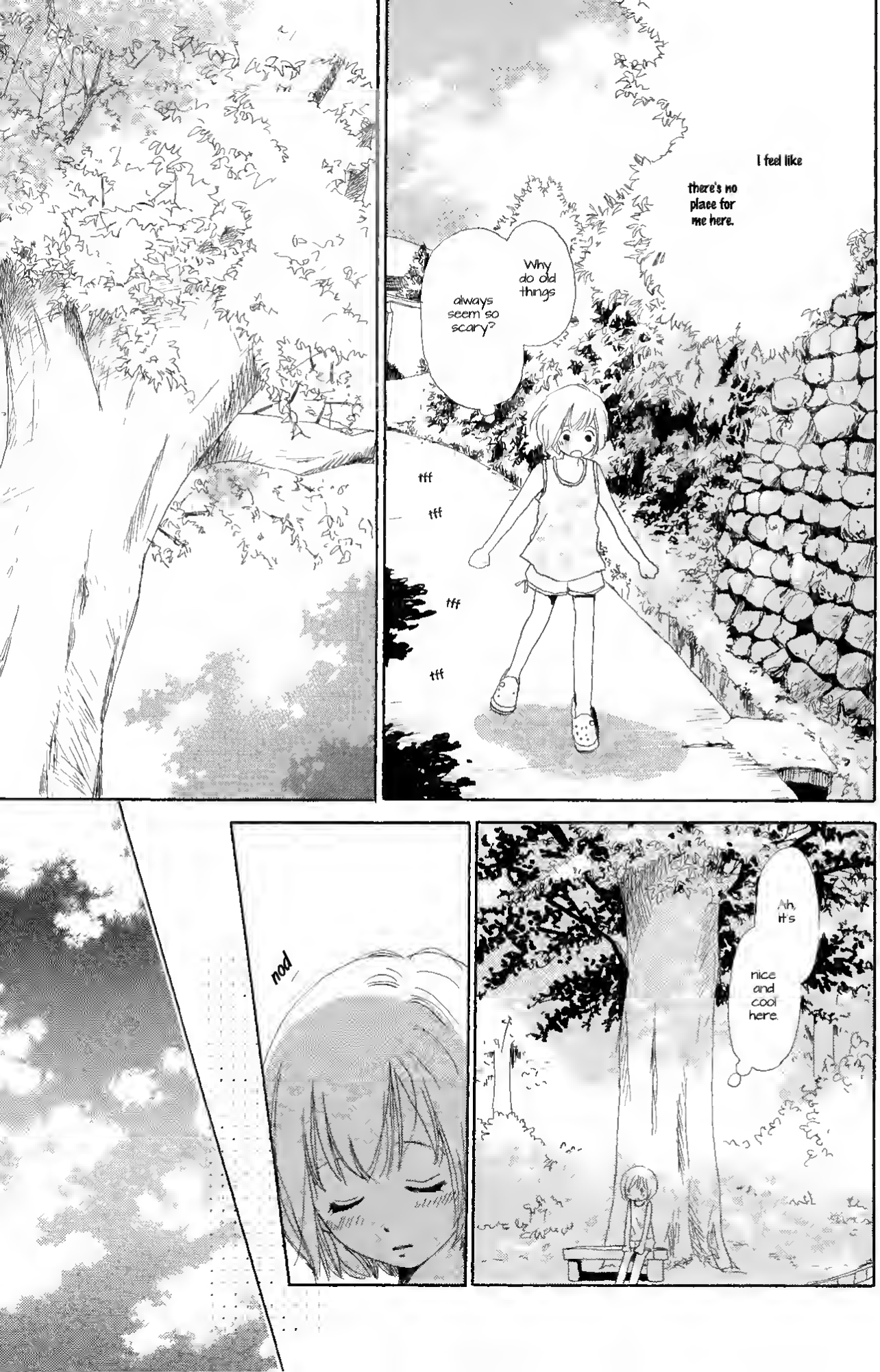
presented by Asuka SASADA

This was during summer break in my sixth-grade year.
My mother and I moved to my grandmother's house out in the country.
SUZU,
I'M STARTING WORK TODAY, YOU KNOW—
YEAH.
AND GRANDMA WILL BE IN TOWN UNTIL DARK...
YOU'LL BE OK BY YOURSELF, RIGHT!?
YEAH.
Flap
Flap
SILENCE
ALL RIGHT, I'M OFF!
SEE YOU!

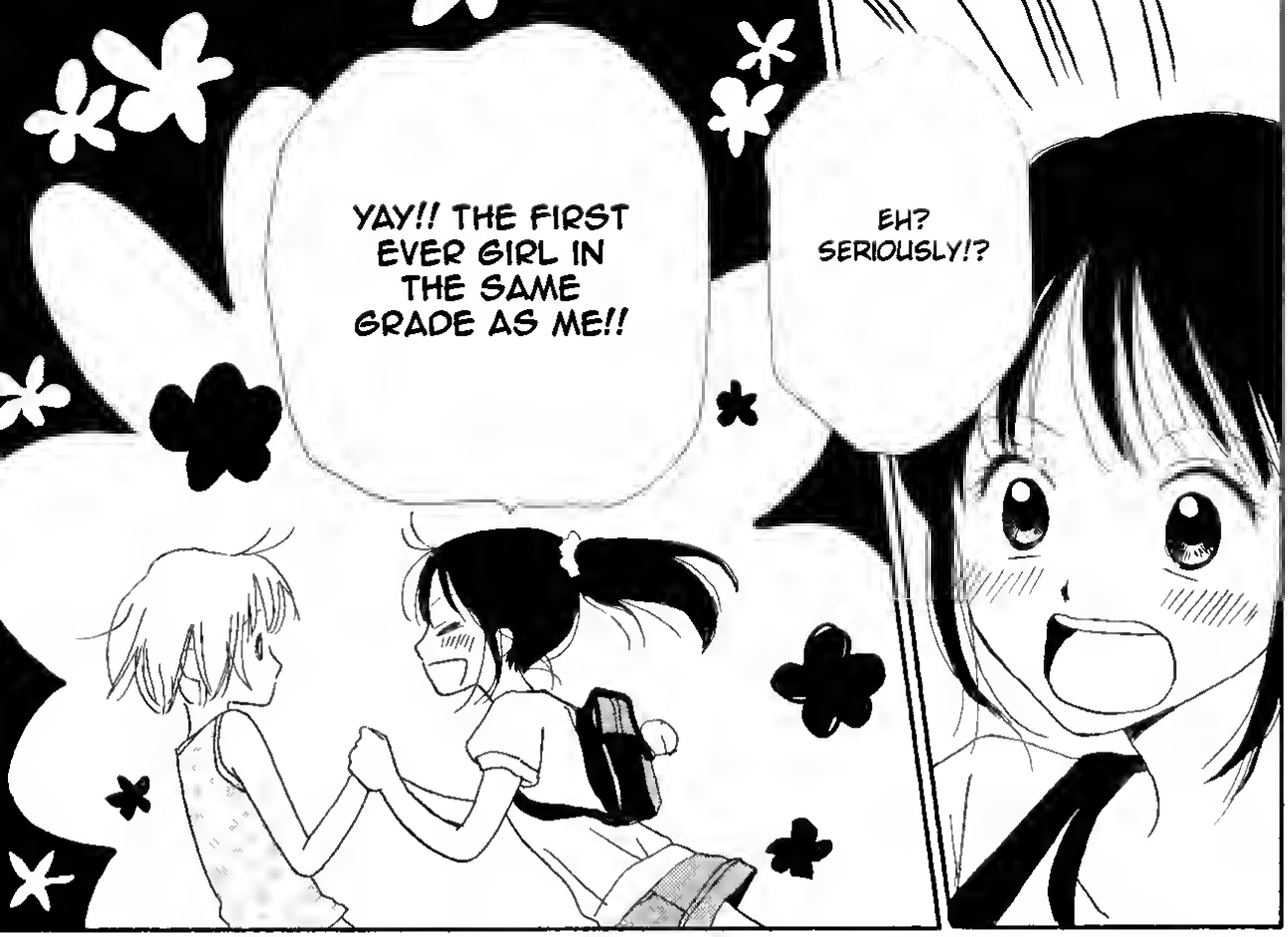

BZZ
BZZZ
Cicadas huh.
They certainly are loud.
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
Yikes!
START
BZZ
I'm perfectly fine
by myself.

Stay away!
We're not playing with you anymore, Suzu-chan
Now that I've separated from Dad, I'll be working a bit later into the evening from now on...
Suzu

I'm perfectly...
Suzu,
What would you say to moving back out to the country?
it seems I really can't make it here on my own after all.
SILENCE...
Whirr
rise
GLANCE
RATTLE
START
Pff
fine,
but...


I feel like there's no place for me here.
Why do old things always seem so scary?
fff
fff
fff
fff
Ah, it's nice and cool here.
nod

PATTER
PATTER
HEY!
YOU OVER THERE! YOU IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!?
GASP
EH?
ELE-MEN-TARY SCHOOL?
YE-AH.
I fell asleep..
hop
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS AROUND HERE HAVE TO BE HOME BY 6:00.
Y-
YOU'RE NOT HOME either...
I'M COMING BACK FROM CRAM SCHOOL.
PEOPLE WHO HAVE LESSONS ARE AN EXCEPTION.
Eh?
Is it really that late?
Flap
Flap
IT'S 6:35.
WHAT GRADE ARE YOU? WHICH SCHOOL?
SIXTH GRADE ...
I'LL BE STARTING AT SATONAKA SOUTH ELE-MENTARY IN THE SECOND TERM...

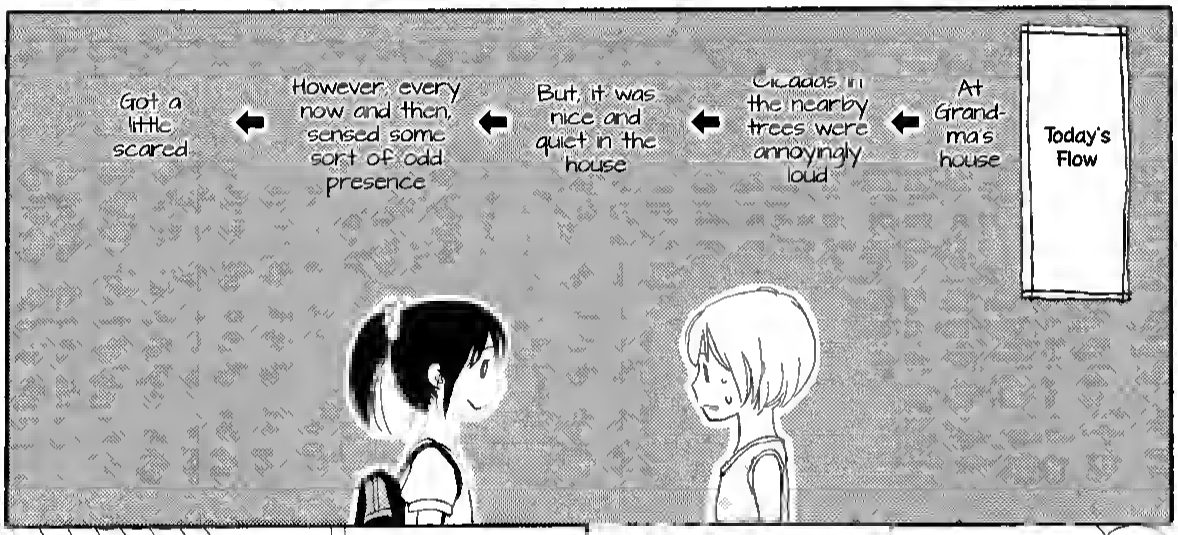

YAY!! THE FIRST EVER GIRL IN THE SAME GRADE AS ME!!
EH? SERIOUSLY!?

I'M
MINEYAMA HINATA!
NICE TO MEET YOU!

Huh!?
First ever!?
—Ah... now that I think about it, they were talking about something like that...
Wow that's a declining population for you...
Seems there's only one 6th-grade girl at Satonaka South
When I went we had more than ten in my grade

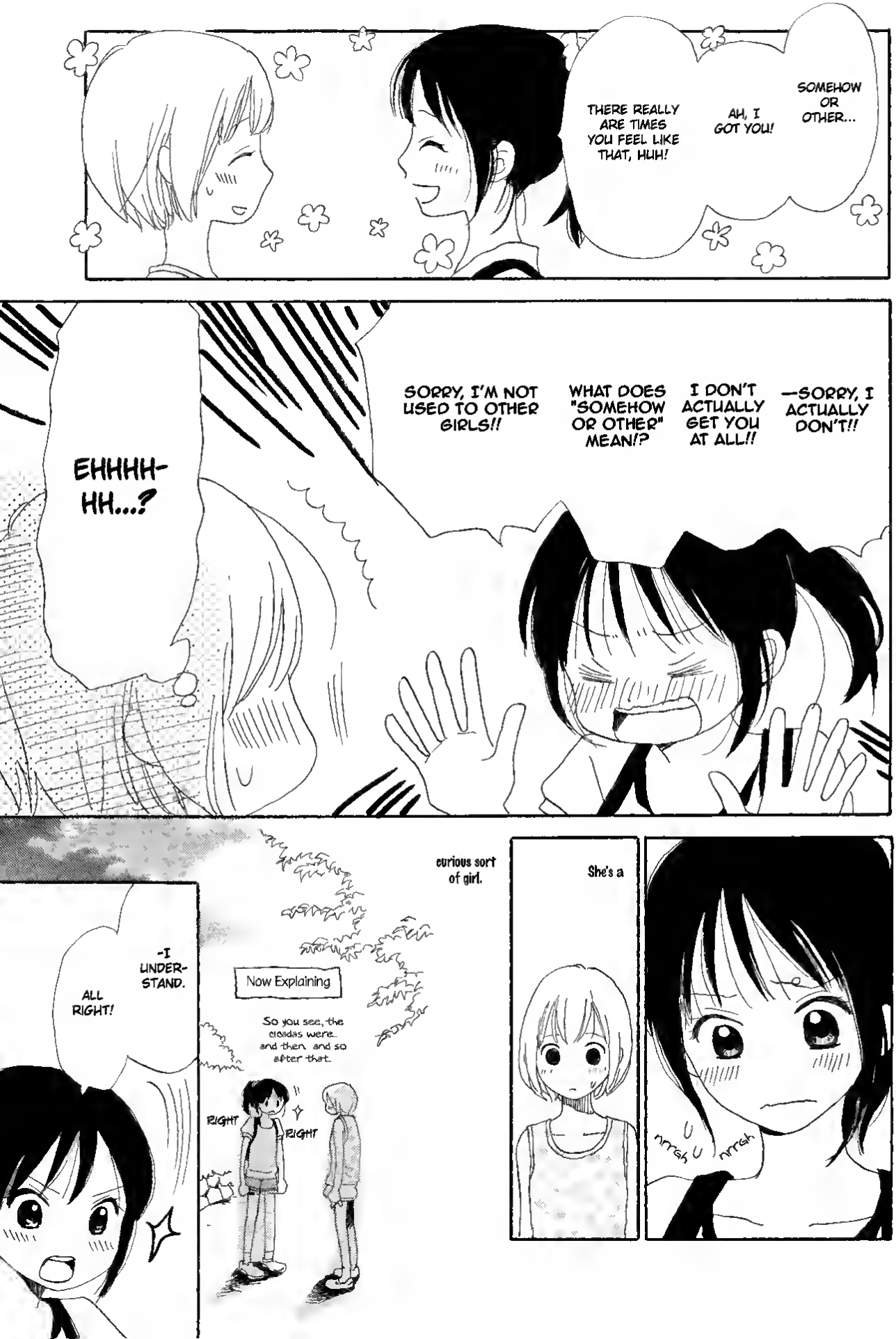
I'M NITTA SUZU.

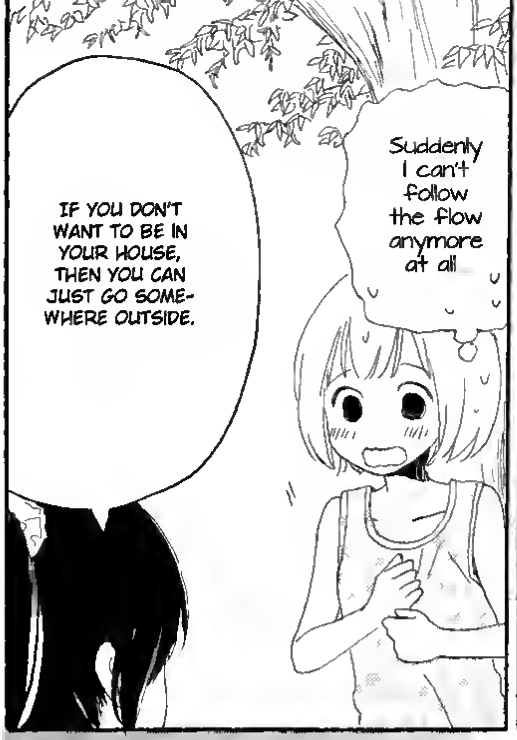
SUZU-CHAN! SO WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE?
W- WELL...


Today's Flow
At Grandma's house
Cicadas in the nearby trees were annoyingly loud
But, it was nice and quiet in the house
However, every now and then, sensed some sort of odd presence
Got a little scared

SOMEHOW OR OTHER, I WAS... I WANTED TO GET OUT OF MY HOUSE.
Ah, but, just saying that is a bit curt, right...

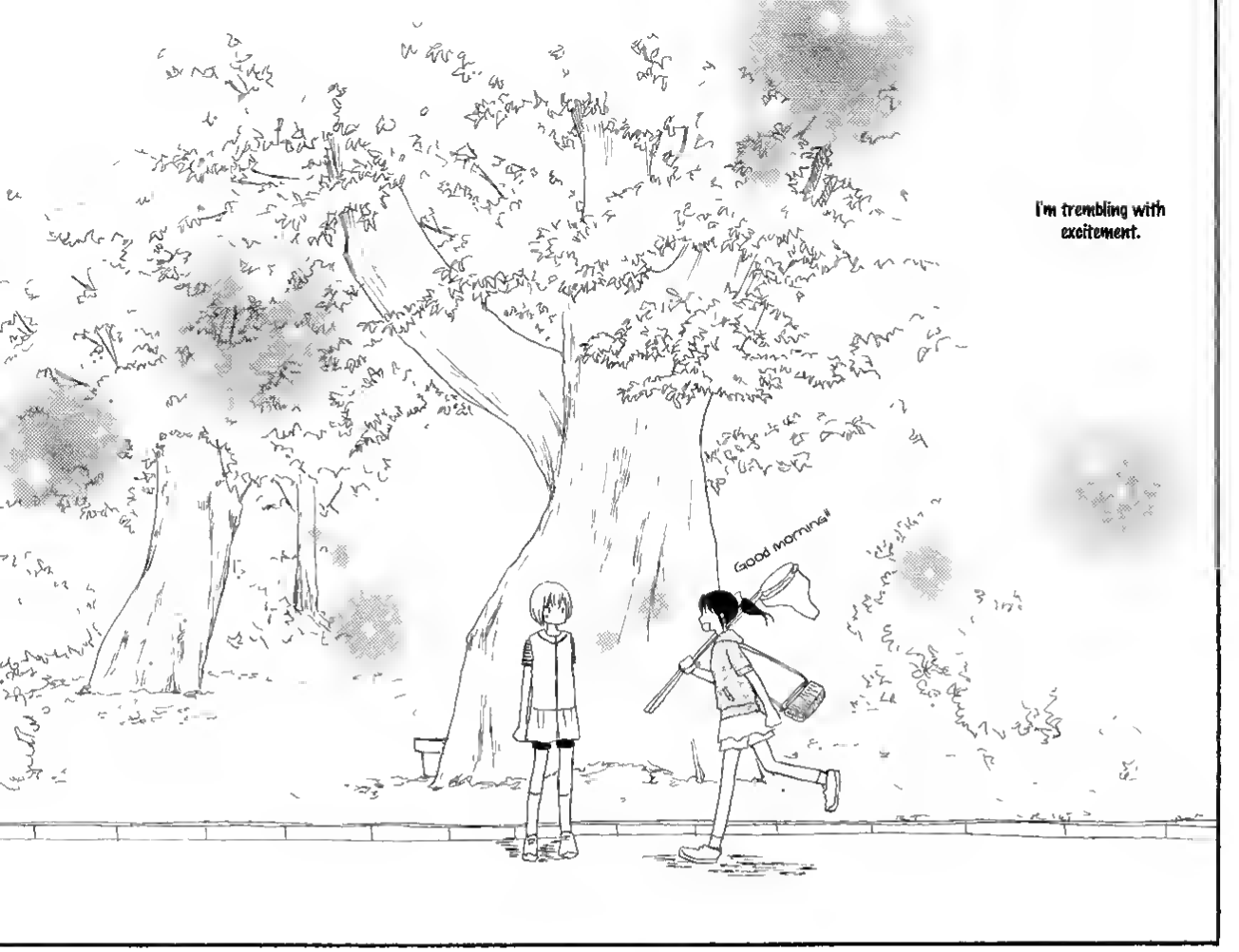
A STROLL.
Or rather, I'm not sure if I can even explain it...
Suddenly coming out with an explanation like that would be weird, right?
—...but


THERE REALLY ARE TIMES YOU FEEL LIKE THAT, HUH!
AH, I GOT YOU!
SOMEHOW OR OTHER...
SORRY, I'M NOT USED TO OTHER GIRLS!!
WHAT DOES "SOMEHOW OR OTHER" MEAN!?
I DON'T ACTUALLY GET YOU AT ALL!!
—SORRY, I ACTUALLY DON'T!!
EHHHH-HH...?
curious sort of girl.
She's a
nrrgh
nrrgh
-I UNDER-STAND.
ALL RIGHT!
Now Explaining
So you see, the cicadas were... and then and so after that.
RIGHT
RIGHT

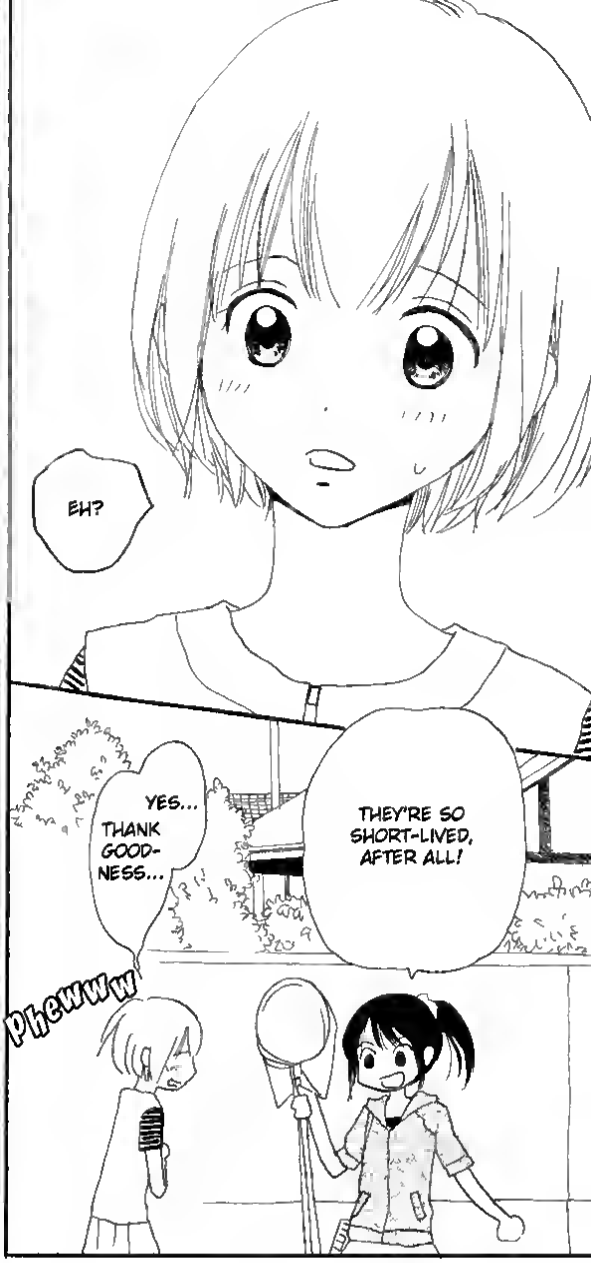

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE IN YOUR HOUSE, THEN YOU CAN JUST GO SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE.
Suddenly I can't follow the flow anymore at all

What!?
IN THAT CASE, LET'S GO CICADA HUNTING TOMORROW!

SMILE
RIGHT?
What should I do?
It's kind of sudden.
BUSINESS-LIKE
CICADAS ARE EASIER TO CATCH IN THE MORNING, I SUPPOSE?
AH, BUT, I'M NOT ALLOWED TO GO OUT TO PLAY UNTIL 10:00...
Have to abide by the rules!
Ve.. very earnest of you..
That's right! I'm an earnest kid!
However...
SO, MEET UP HERE AT 10:30, OK!
K! Hurry home now!


I'm trembling with excitement.
Good morning!

UM...
WHAT'S WRONG?
They don't live very long, do they?
But what should I do? I don't particularly want any cicadas
Her true feelings
But we've come all the way out like this
Then on to Tanaka-san's house, and Kiyo-saachan's house their trees are sure to be stocked.
IF WE REALLY WANT TO HIT THE MOTHER-LODE, IT'S GOT TO BE THE SHRINE, RIGHT?
Hmm! I wonder I wonder I wonder where we should start our offensive.
She got super motivated.
IT'S "CATCH & RELEASE"!
WE'RE NOT KEEPING THEM!
At my house— we can't really keep cicadas—



is you, Hinata-chan. I think the really nice one

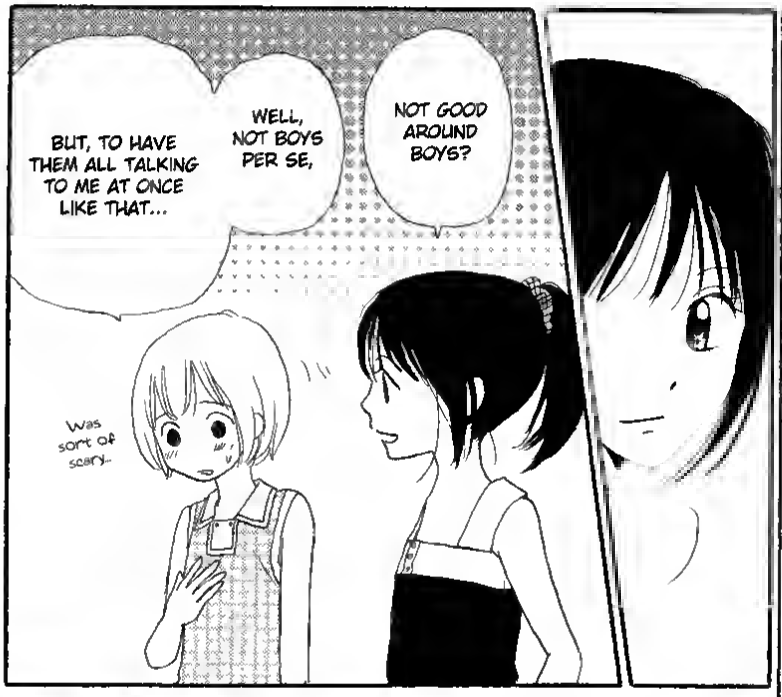
That's not true at all.

and played together.
we made arrange-ments,
every day,
After that,
This way's a shortcut!
hop

THE BOYS FROM OUR SCHOOL.
WHO'S THAT WITH YOU?

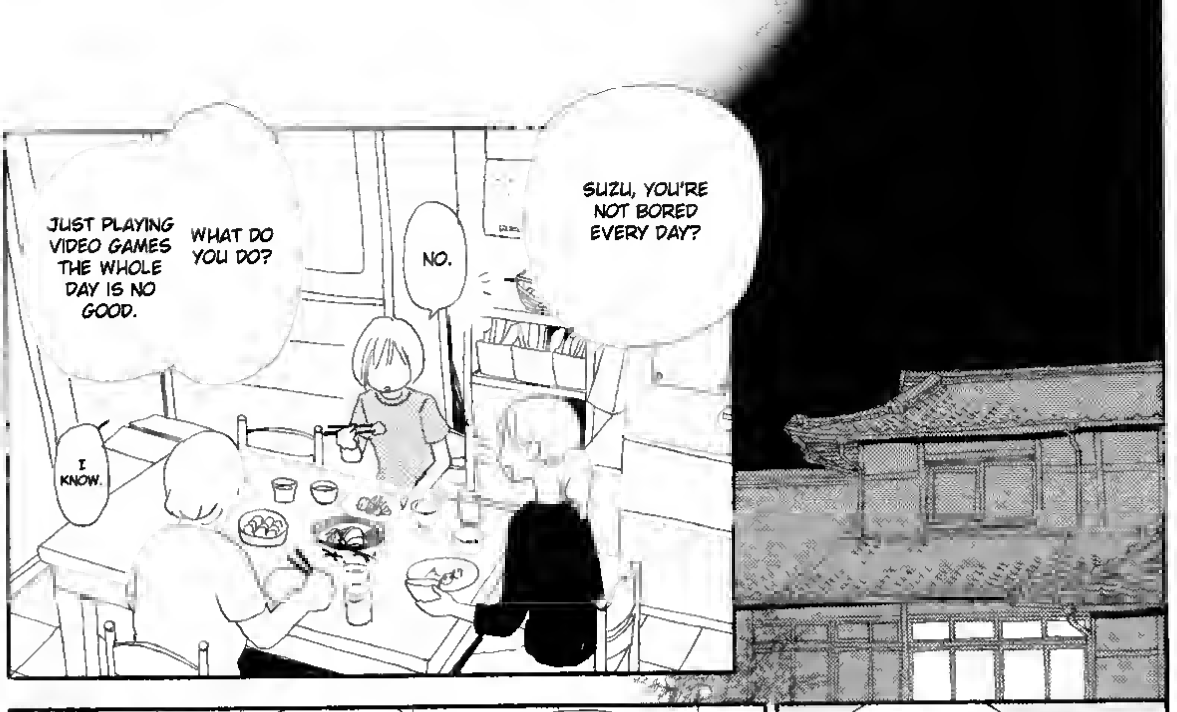
OH!
IT'S HINATA!
WHAT'S UP!!
YO~!
RUCKUS
RUCKUS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

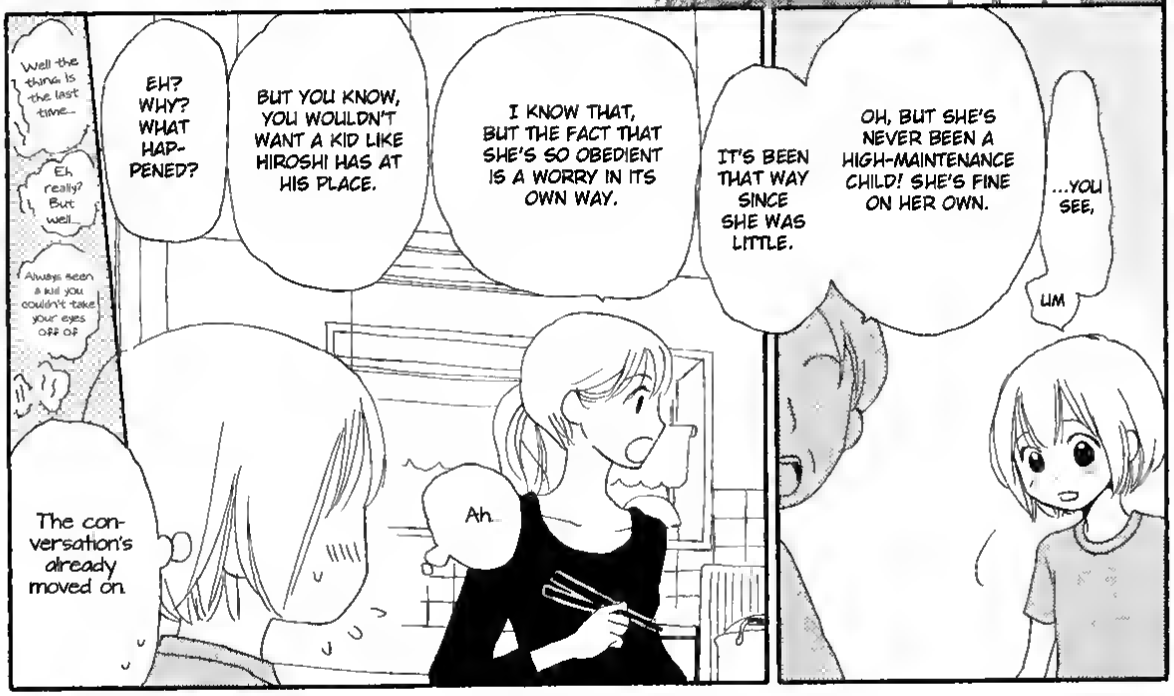
boist
YO, HINATA, WANT TO COME PLAY SOME VIDEO GAMES?
OH, I KNOW THAT SCHOOL! MY COUSIN GOES THERE!
F... FROM DOWNTOWN EAST ELEMENTARY IN CITY A...
WHERE'S THAT?
WOW... FROM WHERE?
SERIOUSLY!?
TRANSFER STUDENT.
We're off to Hinata-kun's house
Weren't you paying attention in social studies?
bo
ist

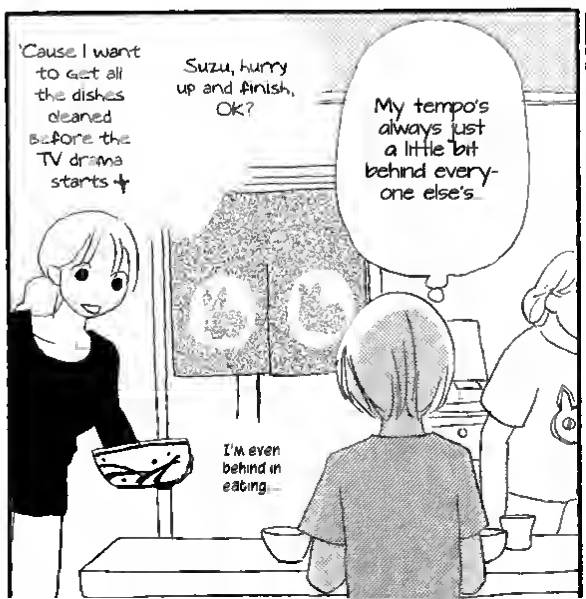

BUT, TO HAVE THEM ALL TALKING TO ME AT ONCE LIKE THAT...
WELL, NOT BOYS PER SE,
NOT GOOD AROUND BOYS?
Was sort of scary.

YOU CAN IGNORE THEM FOR THE MOST PART.
THEY'RE MADE OF NOTHING BUT VIDEO GAMES, SOCCER, AND MUDDY WATER.
Muddy water...?

NOW HURRY UP AND GO!
I DON'T!
Bye Ayyye!
What was that Hinataaaa!?
Bye then
This time I'm really gonna thump you guys in Smash Bros!
Ha ha ha ha
Let's go!
All right, let's dash, off!!
RUCKUS
RUCKU


SUZU, YOU'RE NOT BORED EVERY DAY?
NO.
WHAT DO YOU DO?
JUST PLAYING VIDEO GAMES THE WHOLE DAY IS NO GOOD.
I KNOW.


Well the thing is the last time...
Eh really? But well...
Always seen a kid you couldn't take your eyes off of
EH? WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?
BUT YOU KNOW, YOU WOULDN'T WANT A KID LIKE HIROSHI HAS AT HIS PLACE.
I KNOW THAT, BUT THE FACT THAT SHE'S SO OBEDIENT IS A WORRY IN ITS OWN WAY.
IT'S BEEN THAT WAY SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE.
OH, BUT SHE'S NEVER BEEN A HIGH-MAINTENANCE CHILD! SHE'S FINE ON HER OWN.
...YOU SEE,
UM
Ah
The conversation's already moved on


'Cause I want to get all the dishes cleared before the TV drama starts
Suzu, hurry up and finish, OK?
My tempo's always just a little bit behind everyone else's...
I'm even behind in eating...

"I made a friend"
Trying to say it now would be way too embarrassing...

WOOH, IT'S HOT OUT HERE TODAY!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WANT TO COME OVER TO MY HOUSE?
AH!
...AH.
UM...
MY MOTHER USUALLY ISN'T AT HOME DUE TO WORK,
SO SHE TOLD ME I MUSTN'T INVITE PEOPLE OVER AT THOSE TIMES...
HM?
SURE, IT'S NOT GOOD TO GO INTO SOMEONE'S HOUSE IF THERE AREN'T ANY ADULTS THERE.
But my mom's home today
AND SO,
SINCE I CAN'T INVITE PEOPLE OVER IN RETURN, I SHOULDN'T GO OVER TO THEIR HOUSES EITHER...
...IS WHAT
she told me
OHH, I SEE!
I'M SORRY.
When you invited me so kindly
NO, NOT AT ALL!
YOUR MOTHER IS CERTAINLY A VERY EARNEST PERSON.

YOU'RE VERY EARNEST TOO, SUZU-CHAN!
WE GO ALONG GREAT WITH EACH OTHER!
But suddenly just coming out and saying it would be weird.
I wish I could convey that to you.
I really love you.
This is my favorite book!
My favorite is this one
Then, let's exchange and read them!
I love you,
Hinata-chan.
In that case, how's about we head down to the library instead

YEP! RIGHT NOW IT'S PIANO, KARATE, AND MY CRAM CLASSES...
EXTRA FREE TIME DURING SUMMER, AFTER ALL!
YOU HAVE A LOT OF LESSONS, HUH?
Before I did things like swimming and dance too

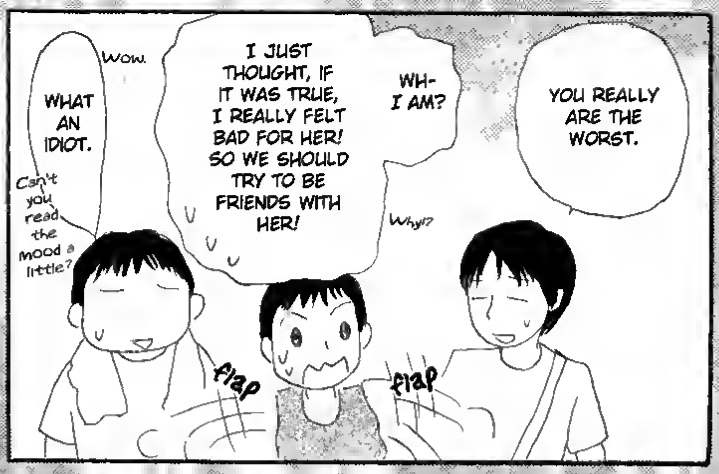
AH! I HAVE MY PIANO LESSONS TODAY, SO I'D BETTER GET HOME SOON.

Seems like she's brimming over with power...
So no matter what I do, I can't lose!
THEY'RE ALL A LOT OF FUN!!

AH, BUT OF COURSE,
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING MORE FUN THAN BEING TOGETHER WITH YOU, SUZU-CHAN!

I-
Uwahhh..
Is this the time to say it!? To say "I love you"...
I FEEL THE SAME WAY...
Now!?
YAY! I'M SO HAPPY!
Right now!—
IT'S HINATA.
OH!
'Sup!
SAG
What are you doing?
Have to head back home
Ugghh.
I missed my cue
SLUMP
Head-to-head
WANT TO PLAY MARIO KART?
NO.
I told you, I have to get home
OH, HEY, I WAS TALKING TO THAT ONE COUSIN OF MINE, BUT...

TRANSFER STUDENT,
IS IT TRUE THAT BEFORE YOU TRANSFERRED HERE,
YOU WERE BULLIED?
-AH
-...IT IS.
gulp
EH-
WELL, SO WE'LL BE GOING NOW!!
SEE YOU AROUND!!
HUH?


WHAT AN IDIOT.
Wow.
Can't you read the mood a little?
I JUST THOUGHT, IF IT WAS TRUE, I REALLY FELT BAD FOR HER! SO WE SHOULD TRY TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER!
WH- I AM?
Why!?
YOU REALLY ARE THE WORST.
flap
flap

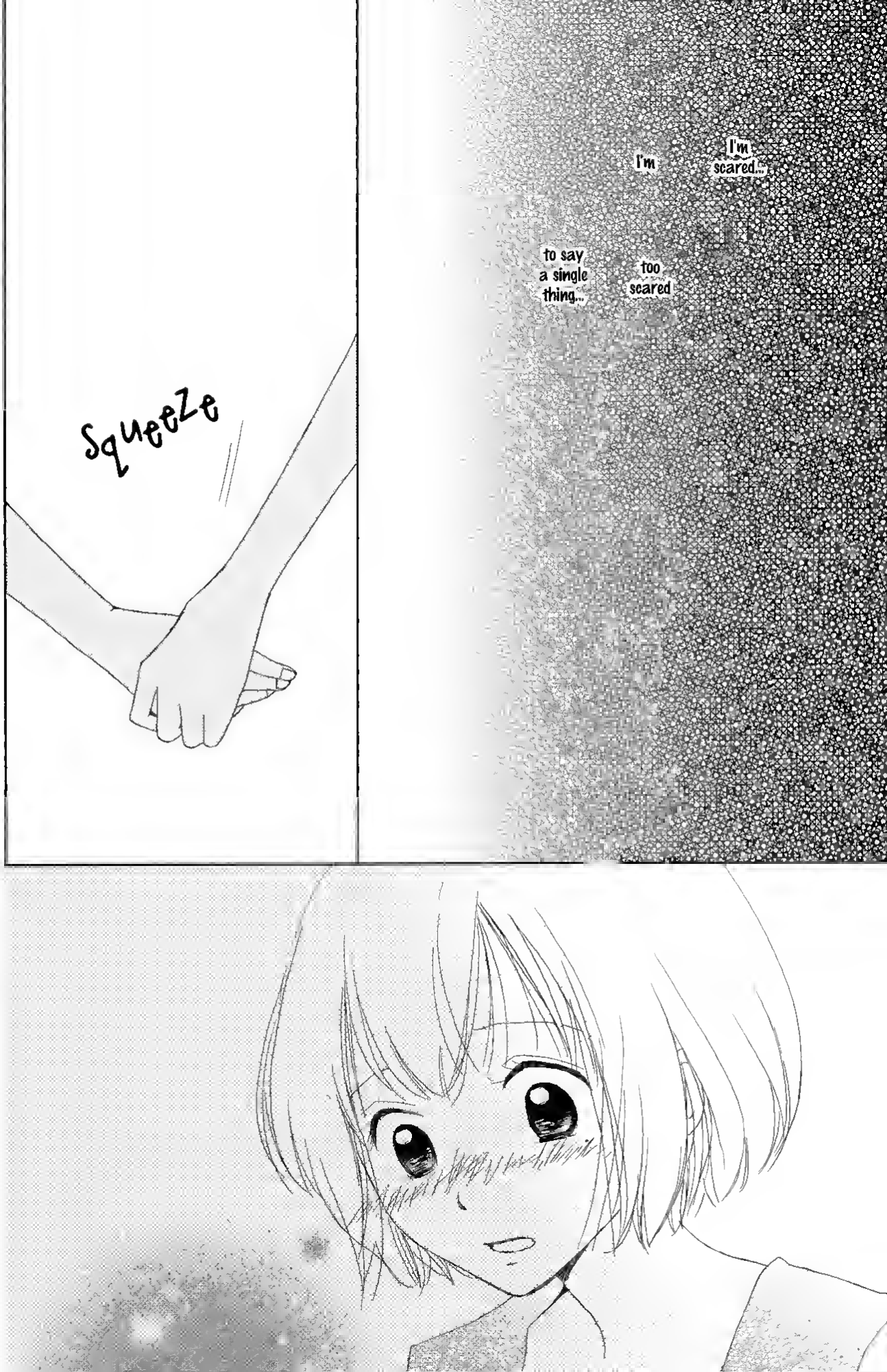
Oh no...
what should I do?

What did Hinata-chan think of me?

Is she disillusioned with me?

She won't look at me.

She's not saying anything.


I'm scared...
I'm
too scared
to say a single thing...
Squeeze

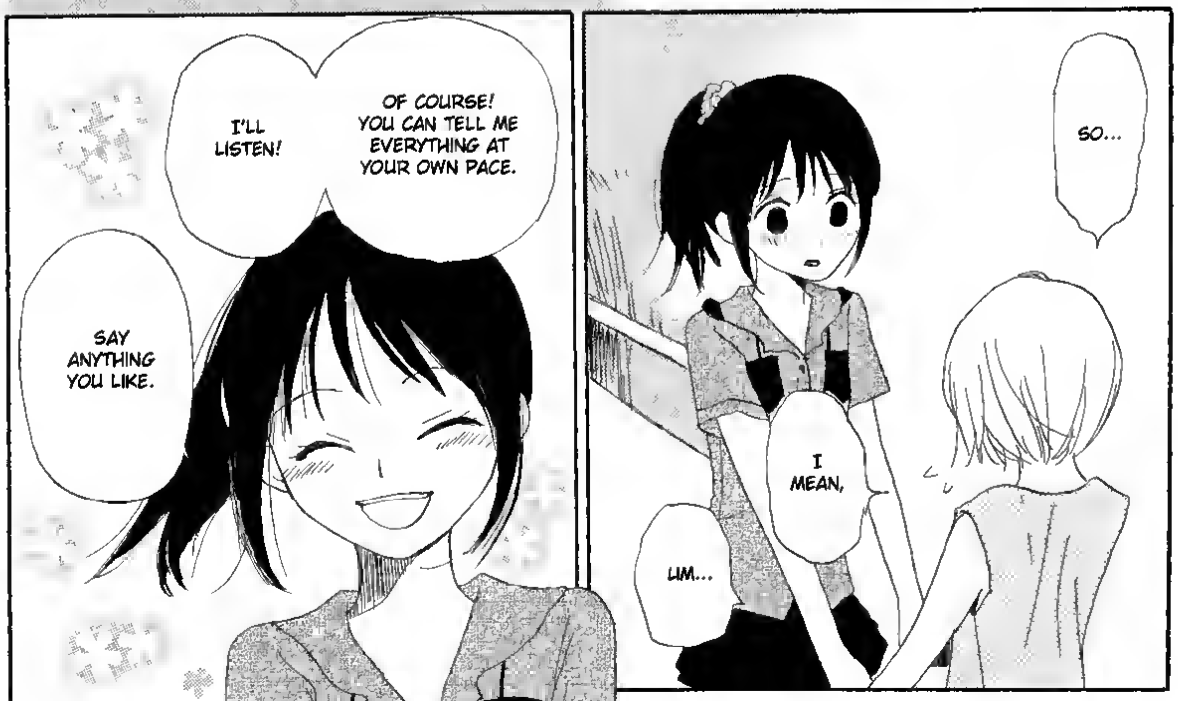
I have to tell her properly.
I have to tell her.
...UM, YOU SEE,

I don't know what Suzu-chan is thinking anymore.
I know, right?

Can we come play at your house, Suzu-chan?
I'm sorry, you can't
Ehh? Again?
AND SO THEN,
IT SEEMS THAT IN AN EXCHANGE DIARY THEY PASSED AROUND, THEY WROTE THAT I WAS UNSOCIABLE, AND THINGS LIKE THAT...
You know, about Suzu-chan, hasn't she been kinda unsociable?
I thought so too! And like, she doesn't really talk much or anything, pretty boring...!
To be honest, I've stopped wanting to invite her too★
You mustn't write such bad things about people!
HOWEVER, SOMEHOW, BEFORE LONG,
THE STORY BECAME THAT I HAD SHOWN THE DIARY TO THE TEACHER.
SOMEONE FOUND IT AND PASSED THE NOTEBOOK OVER TO THE TEACHER,
AND THE TEACHER WARNED EVERY-ONE.
She tattled? That is so low.
I don't know what Suzu-chan is think-ing anymore
I defi-nitely don't want to play with her now
...BEFORE I REALIZED IT,
I WAS ALL ALONE.
Hinata-chan...
Hinata-chan,
please,
look this way...

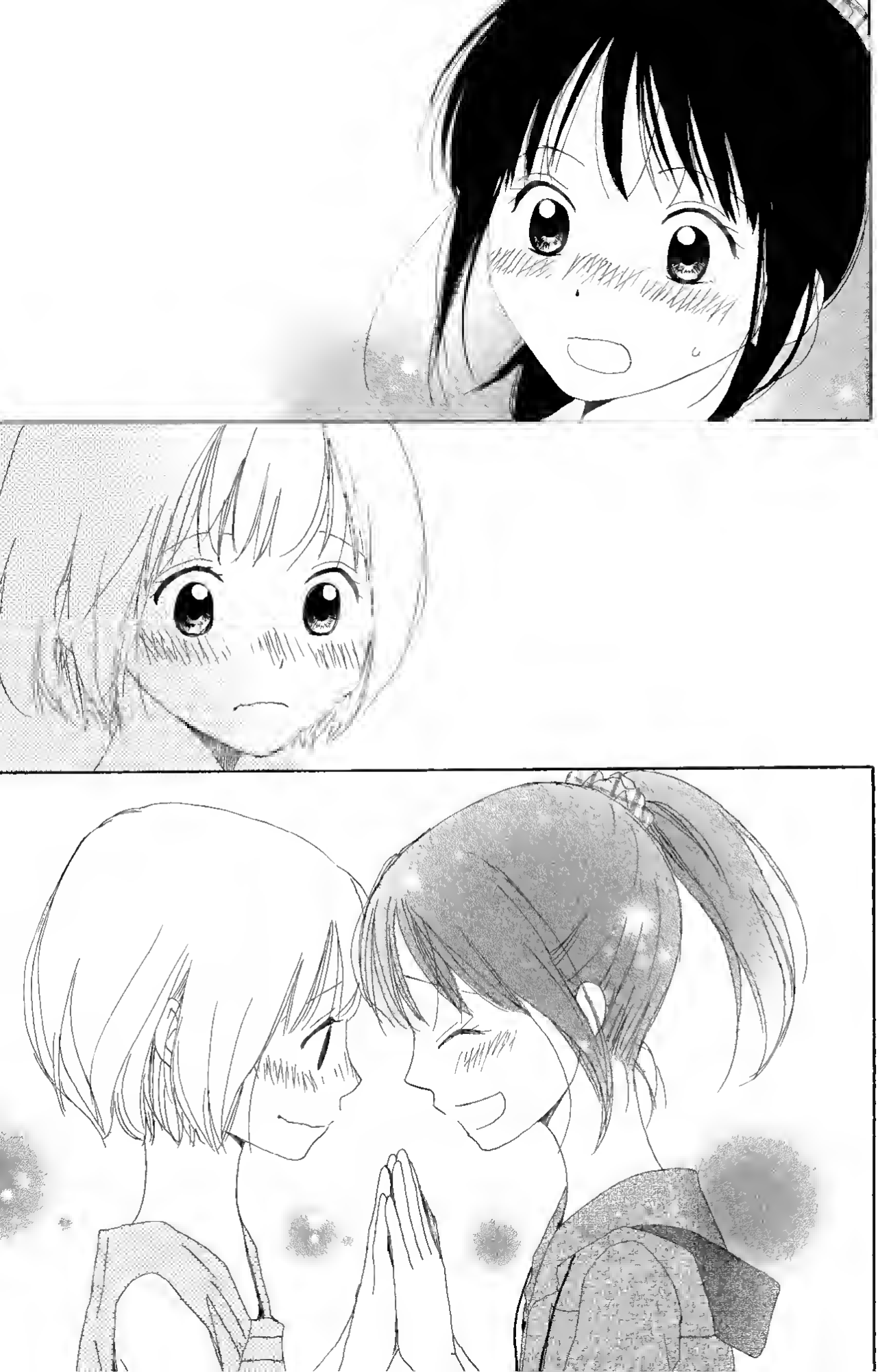
—...I'M SORRY!
HUH?
I'VE NEVER REALLY DEALT WITH A DELICATE PROBLEM LIKE THIS BEFORE,
SO I JUST HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO SAYYYYY!!

I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO USELESS.
NO...
NO... NOT AT ALL!
IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT TELLING YOU PROPERLY!
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING, BUT SOMEHOW THE TIMING TO BRING IT UP WAS ALWAYS WRONG...

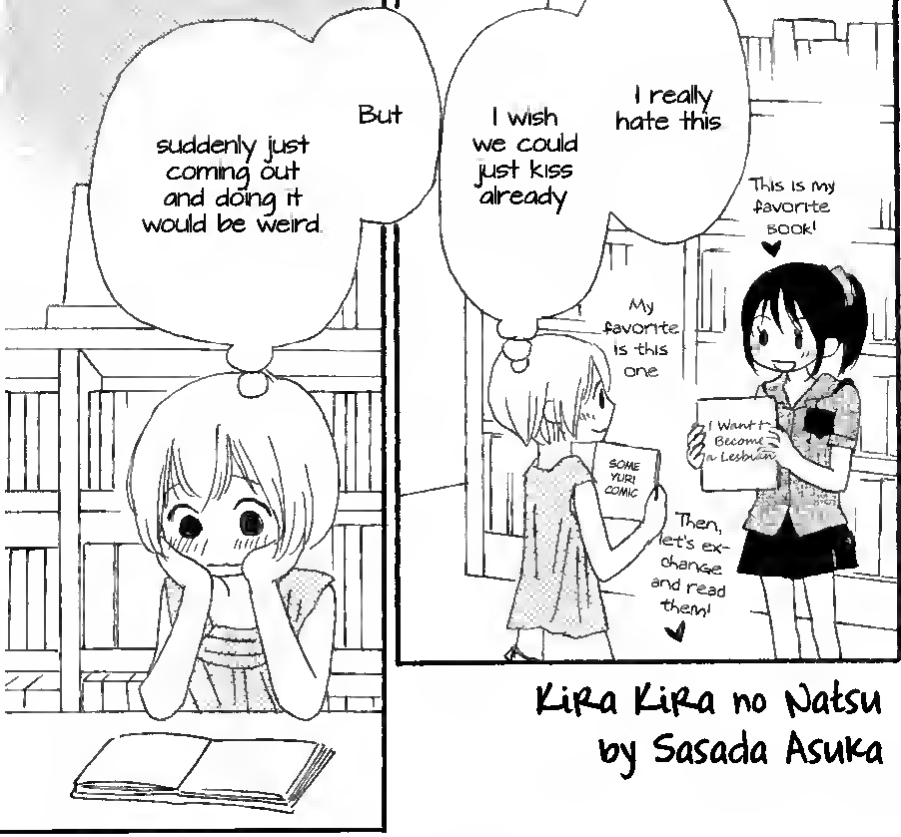

SO...
I MEAN,
UM...
OF COURSE! YOU CAN TELL ME EVERYTHING AT YOUR OWN PACE.
I'LL LISTEN!
SAY ANYTHING YOU LIKE.

HINATA-CHAN,
I LOVE YOU—!!

HUH?
RIGHT NOW,
THAT'S THE THING I MOST WANT TO SAY.
I'M SO GLAD THAT I CAME HERE,
AND WAS ABLE TO MEET YOU, HINATA-CHAN!
HINATA-CHAN, I REALLY LO-
Waiiiit! Hold on! Hold on just one second, after all!!
I figured you just wanted to complain about your old school or something.
You're embarrassing me!! I'm getting really embarrassed here!!



I LOVE YOU TOO!
End


But
suddenly just coming out and doing it would be weird
I really hate this
I wish we could just kiss already
This is my favorite book!
My favorite is this one
I Want to Become a Lesbian
SOME YURI COMIC
Then, let's exchange and read them!

Kira Kira no Natsu
by Sasada Asuka

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